

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Protocol Monitor. A protocol monitor provides the ability to allow a user interface to be updated with protocol status and event information. For monitoring the behavior of a protocol contained within a network frame, network frames are received by the network device and then network frames are filtered according to which protocol is being monitored. Next, the protocol knowledge of the data structure of the network frame is retrieved by a protocol decoder. This enables the extraction of a field contained within a protocol data unit of the network frame which is needed to monitor the protocol behavior. A value is extracted from the field and represented by a keyword. This value is used to update the protocol status or protocol events on the user interface.